

REMARKS

The present invention relates to a fuel tank for a motor vehicle and to a method for producing such fuel tank, in which the inner face of the fuel tank is processed with a particular inorganic coating agent which improves the combustion process and decreases fuel consumption and the emission of pollutants.

In the final Office Action of October 1, 2004, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on Wright in view of Ichikawa. There are no other rejections.

With respect to the previously included recitation in claim 1, (wherein it was further specified that the inorganic coating agent comprises (C) at least one synthetic resin binder), the Examiner has in the final Office Action indicated an impression that the organoalkoxysilanes in Ichikawa are hydrolyzed to form polymers followed by curing, and hence would constitute the component (C), so the Examiner has maintained the § 103(a) rejection.

In order to facilitate the resolution of the prosecution of this application, and considering various possibilities for response, the undersigned attorney contacted the above-identified Examiner telephonically, and in a resultant discussion on December 15, 2004, the undersigned attorney noted the particular disclosure with respect to the synthetic resins that can constitute (C) at pages 8-9 of the present specification, as well as the disclosure in the present application (see the paragraph bridging pages 15-16) regarding the application, drying, and curing of the

inorganic coating agent within a temperature range of 80 to 200°C, in contrast to the Ichikawa references' disclosure of curing at 280°C (column 13, lines 38-40) that was cited by the Examiner.

It is noted that not only is the temperature range for curing in the case of the present invention considerably lower than that disclosed by Ichikawa et al, but furthermore it is disclosed in the present specification that exceeding 200°C unfavorably affects the base material in the case of the present invention. Therefore it is respectfully submitted to be clear that a person following the teachings of Ichikawa and curing at 280°C would not obtain the claimed invention of the present application.

In view of the Examiner's recognition of the foregoing distinction and the fact that the limitation regarding the temperature range was already considered by the Examiner in claim 13, and hence does not raise a new issue, Applicants have herein amended independent claim 1 to incorporate the recitation regarding the curing conditions from claim 13 into claim 1, and have accordingly cancelled claim 13. Still further, Applicants respectfully submit that the fact that the inorganic coating agent on the inner face of the fuel tank in accordance with the present invention includes at least one synthetic resin binder (C), and further consider the scope of the synthetic resin based on the disclosure in the present specification (again, see pages 8-9), Applicants respectfully submit that the synthetic resin binder as it must be interpreted in claim 1 in view of the specification does not include organoalkoxysiloxines. Therefore, the Examiner is

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
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respectfully requested to consider the foregoing distinctions of the present invention, as in accordance with the present Amendment, and to withdraw the sole remaining rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Furthermore, in view of the withdrawal of the sole remaining rejection, it is respectfully submitted that remaining claims 1-5, 7-12, and 14-20 are now in condition for allowance.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

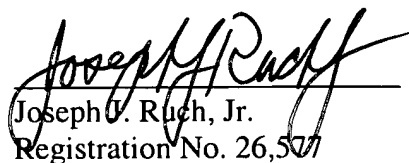
Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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CUSTOMER NUMBER


Joseph V. Ruch, Jr.
Registration No. 26,507

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